

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 16-18 are independent. Claims 1, 4 and 16-18 are hereby amended. Claim 5 is hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 19-32 were canceled in response to a Restriction Requirement. Claim 5 was indicated as allowable. Independent claims 1 and 16-18 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of previous claim 5. Claims 16 and 18 have also been amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

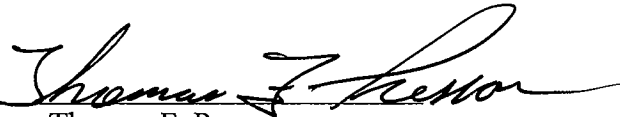
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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